

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2944

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes consideration of H.R. 2944, the D.C. appropriations bill, tomorrow at 10 a.m., Wednesday November 7, after the bill is reported, Senator ALLEN be recognized to offer an amendment regarding needle exchange; that there be 60 minutes for debate prior to a vote in relation to the amendment, with the time equally divided and controlled in the usual form; that no amendment be in order to the amendment prior to a vote in relation to the amendment; that upon the use or yielding back of the time, the Senate vote in relation to the amendment; that upon the disposition of the Allen amendment, Senator HUTCHISON be recognized to offer an amendment relating to attorneys fees; that there be 60 minutes for debate with respect to the amendment; that no second-degree amendment be in order; that upon the use of 15 minutes each for proponents and opponents of the Hutchison of Texas amendment, the amendment be set aside until 2:30 p.m. the same day, with the remaining 30 minutes of debate equally divided; that upon the use or yielding back of the time, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Hutchison amendment, with no further intervening action.

I further ask unanimous consent that upon the use of 30 minutes of debate on the Hutchison amendment, there then be a period of morning business until 2:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the majority and Republican leaders or their designees.

We have a very important briefing by one of the President's Cabinet Members tomorrow afternoon. That is the reason for the extended morning business time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. SESSIONS pertaining to the introduction of S. 1641 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. SESSIONS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to explain my absence during yesterday's roll call vote on the nomination of Larry Hicks to be U.S. District Judge of the Nevada District. I do not dissent on Mr. Hick's nomination and if I had been present, I would have voted aye.

Unfortunately I was absent during yesterday's rollcall vote because my attendance was necessary at a meeting to discuss the economic future of my home State of Montana. I discussed the State of Montana's timber industry with Plum Creek Timber Co., the largest wood products business in Montana. To be specific, we discussed what tools are necessary to ensure that business in Montana survives our Nation's current economic downturn.

The future of a specific industry in my State brings me to a larger point, the economic state of rural America after September 11, 2001. Much attention has been paid, as it should, to the economic effect of the terrorist attacks on our major centers of commerce. Primarily America's largest cities and the coasts. However, the impact has been felt equally as hard in rural America where the economy was already slowing.

In addition to the wood products industry, agricultural commodities which are the lifeblood of Montana and rural America are hurting worse than ever before. The past 3 years have been disastrous due to drought. Now Montana's farmers are faced with sharply escalating operating costs due to higher energy and fertilizer prices. According to the most recent projections provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, total farm expenses are expected to rise again this year, right on the heels of a \$10 billion increase last year.

As costs spiral out of control, farm income has not kept pace. Last year net farm business income was at a decade low according to USDA. Unless Government assistance is continued,

net farm income in 2001 is projected to be even lower.

The downturn in rural America is especially calamitous because prolonged economic depression often means extinction for these rural communities. A few bad years forces everyone out of business, not just those that sell commodities for a living. The very people and places that make up the fabric of the American economy are forced to seek opportunity elsewhere. This is a price that I am not willing to pay.

As we consider economic recovery measures we cannot forget rural America. We must not let the immediate damage that we see every night on the evening news blind us to the crisis that is happening in rural communities across America. We simply do not have a choice. The cost is simply too high.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred May 30, 1993, in Concord, CA. A gay man was sprayed with mace and threatened with a golf club by a neighbor who used an anti-gay slur. The assailant, Gilbert Lucero, 37, was arrested on assault charges.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THE JEWISH BOOK FAIR

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask that the Senate join me today in congratulating the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit on the occasion of the golden anniversary of the Jewish Book Fair. Since 1951, the book fair has nourished the literary appetite of the metropolitan Detroit community.

Along with the Book Fair, the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit has enriched Jewish life and supported Jewish unity in and around the Detroit area for 75 years. The Community Center also strives to enhance life in the general community and welcomes all those in southeast Michigan to take advantage of the Center's facilities and programs.

The Jewish Community Center's Annual Book Fair is the largest and oldest in the country, and its programs